

text and thus divest it of the charm and expansive qualities of mystery.

STILL ANOTHER LETTER

This One From Wilson Favors State-wide Prohibition.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Washington, January 7.—A few members of the Democratic National Committee are studying with deepest interest another letter from Governor Woodrow Wilson that seems to promise more trouble for the party—at least for the Governor's candidacy—than even his letter of the 26th of October. It is a letter from the Governor to William Jennings Bryan. The old letter was directed against Mr. Bryan's personal qualifications as a leader, and as such might personally be forgotten and forgiven by the Nebraskaan. But the letter that is now causing earnest talk among both Governor Wilson's friends and his enemies goes into a question of public policy which before this has cost the party many States. It probably will be received by Mr. Bryan as a compliment, but it will meet chilling response from many Democrats in a number of States. It is nothing less than a declaration from the Governor, in one of the many letters he has written, favoring prohibition in certain States under certain conditions. He does not go so far as to advocate national prohibition, but he does advocate it under discussion, but he does advocate it under conditions, homogeneity of population and other circumstances make it practicable.

The letter was written on July 6, 1911, a little over four years after his outburst against Mr. Bryan, and addressed to E. W. Grogan, of Byars, Tex. At that time Texas was, as she has been ever since, in the throes of a great political fight, with prohibition as the chief issue.

Mr. Grogan was interested in the matter, and he wrote to the Democratic Governor of New Jersey for an opinion. This is the answer that he got:

"I believe that in some States State-wide prohibition is possible and desirable, because of their relative homogeneity, while for others I think that State-wide prohibition is not practicable."

"I have no reason to doubt from what I know of the circumstances that State-wide prohibition is both practicable and desirable in Texas. It is a question of four letters, I was only trying to state what I think must all be kept in mind—the wide divergence of conditions which makes it impossible to reply to any single question like prohibition in terms which would fit the whole country."

Politicians recall that when Mr. Bryan, after his last defeat, spoke in favor of national prohibition, his utterances were hailed as his final retirement from party leadership. The whole proposition was held up at various points. Democratic doctrine of individual rights and in a peculiar sense so much in opposition to strong elements of the party in New York, Illinois and elsewhere, that it was considered inconceivable that he intended to do so. Of course, does not go as far as Mr. Bryan in the matter, but the publication of his letter on the eve of the meeting of the national committee is considered a serious blow by his friends. His enemies are correspondingly delighted.

ASHLAND NEWS NOTES

Ashland, January 7.—Mr. and Mrs. George B. Hutchins, and Mrs. Graham B. Hobson and Misses Lella Graham and Elizabeth Hobson, of Richmond, spent today with Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bridges.

Miss Helen of Gatersburg, Md., in visiting relatives here.

Miss Margaret Lee, who has been at St. Luke's Hospital in Richmond, where was operated on for appendicitis, has returned home.

Miss Greyson Hooftkamp left Saturday for Washington, to attend the college. Lynchburg and spending some time at her home here.

Meade Hugh Denon and William Ridd, of Richmond, were guests Saturday of Mrs. C. M. Bridges.

Miss Anna Deswell delightfully entertained the class on Friday.

Miss Comie Bridges will spend Saturday to her home in Chaco City.

Lawrence Martin, of Charlottesville, is the guest to-day of Webb Midyette.

Mrs. William Lasher has returned from a visit to relatives in New York.

Miss Comie Bridges will spend Saturday with her sister, Mrs. Graham B. Hobson, in Richmond.

Eugene Wightman, who has been at St. Luke's Hospital, is expected to be discharged today.

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"Berry's for Cloth"



Caps, big in pattern, style and quality, in tweeds, kerseys and rough woolsens, 80c to \$2.

Soft hats—rough, rougher, roughest, \$1.85 to \$6.

Some from France, some from Australia and real good ones made right in this Country.

Derbies of course. No matter how many a man has the derby is still a necessity.

The Dunlap and Henry Heath derby at \$8.

"Seconds" from the best hat makers in America—\$1.90.

NOT WORK OF SCIENTISTS

Keen Police Official Finds True Cause of Seventy Deaths in Berlin.

Berlin, January 7.—Berlin's great poisoning epidemic, which killed seventy inmates at a municipal shelter for the homeless and put 101 others in the hospitals, has been rather a black eye to Germany's vaunted medical science, especially in the pathological branch.

The leading bacteriologists of the country are still engaged in an unseemly squabble over the real cause of the scourge. Their first diagnosis of deleterious smoked fish has been utterly abandoned.

There has really not until a keen police official ran down a cellarful of spurious "brandy," which proved to be a death-dealing concoction of methylated spirits, that the medical wise men had a glimmer of the genuine cause of the plague, and reluctantly withdrew their microscopes from what they supposed to be macell in Bismarck herring.

They have not yet fully espoused the methylated spirits theory. There is every reason to believe, however, that it was actually poisonous "schnapps" which brought about the deaths. The druggists who studied and retailed the deadly brewer have been arrested, and will be placed in the dock charged with manslaughter.

FOUR ARE FOUND DEAD

Mystery Surrounds Tragedy in Philadelphia Boarding House.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 7.—Mystery surrounds the deaths of four persons, whose bodies, fully clothed, were discovered today in the second-story back room of the boarding house of Mrs. Bridget Flanagan, 1223 North Twenty-fourth Street. Mrs. Flanagan was among the dead, was deserted by her husband ten days ago, but was found to have been in fairly prosperous circumstances.

She was thirty-eight years of age. Her daughter, Annie Flanagan, aged fifteen months, and Joseph Flanagan, aged fifteen months, an adopted child, died with her. The fourth body was that of Catherine Murray, aged eighteen years, a boarder in the house, who recently came to this country from Ireland.

The police officials and coroner, who are investigating the case, are unable to determine whether the deaths were caused by coal gas or whether a poison had been administered in milk, of which all four had partaken.

Mrs. Hannah Curran, a sister of Mrs. Flanagan, was found unconscious in another room. Physicians are unable to determine whether or not she also was poisoned.

TALKS WITH ROOSEVELT

Stimson Says Colonel Will Not Be a Candidate.

New York, January 7.—Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, said after luncheon with Theodore Roosevelt at Oyster Bay yesterday, according to the Tribune, that in his opinion Mr. Roosevelt would never be a candidate for the presidential nomination against President Taft. Secretary Stimson is a personal friend of both the ex-President and President Taft. He is quoted as deprecating the stories of Mr. Roosevelt's political activity as a possible candidate in 1912 as being without any foundation.

"I have never believed Mr. Roosevelt would be a candidate for the nomination against Mr. Taft, and I have not the slightest reason now," he said, "after talking with Mr. Roosevelt, to change that opinion."

MADDENED BY FLAMES

Man Fights Off Efforts of Bride to Extinguish Fire and Dies in Agony.

Ellisville, Ga., January 7.—Maddened by the flames which licked his body, Joe Sears fought off the frantic attempts of his bride of three weeks to extinguish the fire last night and died in agony several hours later. Clad only in a night shirt, Mr. Sears was in the act of putting on a nightgown when the fire broke out in the rooming house where he was staying.

His wife ran screaming to his assistance, but could do nothing.

The young man was the only son of Dr. W. D. Sears, a prominent physician of Ellisville.

MRS. ROOSEVELT ILL

Condition Not Serious, and Recovery Within Few Days Looked For.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., January 7.—Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, it was learned tonight, has been ill for several days past, but is recovering. Two months ago she was injured by a fall from her horse while riding with the Colonel. Her present illness is said, however, not to be a result of the accident.

One of the attending physicians said Mrs. Roosevelt was more comfortable to-night; that her condition was not now considered serious, and that her recovery within a few days was looked for.

RUMORS OF PEACE ARE PREMATURE

Italy Is Ready to Examine Proposals of Turkey With an Open Mind.

Rome, January 7.—All reports proclaiming that peace between Italy and Turkey is near are premature. The official attitude at Rome is that, in view of the fact that Italy is in the possession of victory she cannot ask for peace or initiate negotiations looking for peace. But it is pointed out that Italy is ready to examine into peace proposals with an open mind, if advanced by Turkey on the basis that Tripoli and Cyrenaica shall be definitely annexed to Italy, according to which will be transformed into a law of the nation at the reopening of Parliament at the end of January.

Therefore any discussion of this point, say officials, would be superfluous and, indeed, injurious to any understanding between Italy and Turkey.

Without Foundations.

Constantinople, January 7.—The rumors that peace negotiations have been entered into by Turkey and Italy, it is announced, are without foundation.

Peace Rumors Disposed Of.

London, January 7.—A statement made to-day by the Turkish Foreign Minister appears finally to dispose of peace rumors. He declares that never while he is minister will peace be arranged on the basis of the annexation of Tripoli and Cyrenaica to Italy.

A Rome dispatch gives an unconfirmed report of a massacre of the villagers at Gagarash by the Turks, in revenge for their submission to the Italians.

Partly Destroyed by Fire.

Warrenton, Va., January 7.—The house of L. H. Chamberlain, on Winchester Street, was found to be on fire about 11 o'clock this morning. The fire was caused by defective woodwork around a stove. The house was gutted by water and much of the building was destroyed in locating the source of the flames. The contents were saved and the loss partially covered by insurance.

MEETING CAUSES TONGUES TO WAG

(Continued From First Page.)

Matters pending before the committee. Neither would he talk of the letter said to have been written by Woodrow Wilson a few years ago urging the party to add Missouri to the Democratic platform.

W. F. McCombs, manager of the Woodrow Wilson headquarters, charged to-night that the report of friction between Wilson and Bryan was inspired in Wall Street, and that other stories of the same character might be expected from that source. He did not deny the existence of the Joline letter, however.

There will be gathered here tomorrow nearly every man who has been mentioned for the Democratic nomination, and all of the active and receptive candidates will be represented. In person there will be Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey; Governor Foss, of Massachusetts; Speaker Champ Clark and former Governor Folk, of Missouri; Governor Dix, of New York; Senator Kern, of Indiana, who is supposed to be the representative of Governor Marshall, but is regarded by many as being a dark horse probability; and Senator Newlands, of Nevada, who has a progressive platform.

Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio, is looking after the Judson Harmon boom; Representative Underwood, of Alabama, is within reach, but will not attend the Jackson Day banquet, and then there will be William Randolph Hearst, who is spoken of as a possibility, although generally accredited as a Clark man, and Colonel Bryan, who does not lack supporters.

Fighting for Convention.

St. Louis and Chicago are to be struggling hardest for the convention. Chicago, it seems, does not offer any financial inducement beyond actual expenses, and the Democratic committee feels that the city which receives the convention should provide something with which to start the campaign. Denver and New York also aspire to entertain the convention. It is said, but the race seems to be narrowing down to the cities first named. It was declared tonight that Baltimore's chances were increasing.

The meeting of the committee will be held at 12 o'clock to-morrow. The first question that will receive attention relates to the contests for delegates from Tennessee and Pennsylvania. The fight of R. E. L. Murray, who was elected committeeman by the Tennessee delegation at the Denver convention, to continue as a committeeman from that State is opposed by John W. Weeks, who was named by a State committee which questioned Mountcastle's party loyalty. The place held by Colonel James F. Guffey, of Pennsylvania, is sought by Representative A. Mitchell Palmer. Guffey is having a faction of his party with having been indifferent to the success of his party's candidate for Governor in the last election.

These contests probably will provoke a long struggle unless the committee should declare that a State committee has not the power of retaining which would have the effect of retaining Mountcastle and Guffey. It is said that Mr. Bryan favors the retention of Mountcastle and the rejection of Guffey, which is just contrary to the wishes of what is known as the Old Guard members of the committee.

The Primary Question.

There is little doubt that the committee will be compelled to face the question of primaries for the selection of delegates, although the majority sentiment appears to be against it. Many members of the committee are opposed to primaries on account of the cost, and therefore will urge the voting down of general endorsement of the primary plan. It appears likely that the Democratic Committee will follow the plan of the States having primary laws free to follow that plan of electing delegates.

Little attention is being paid to the demands of the representatives of some of the candidates for the abrogation of the rule of the party, which requires a two-thirds vote of the convention to nominate a candidate for President and Vice-President. It is asserted that if this question is proposed it will be voted down.

Not in Favor.

More serious than the Sullivan opposition was the developing evidence that the primary is not in high favor with many committeemen. Conservatives, and some not so conservative, were protesting against the innovation, and declaring that Mr. Bryan would not be permitted to force it into the party's policy, further than to allow those States which have general primary laws to elect delegates under these.

The good old Democratic franchise of mixing things when there is a chance of winning seems to have been redeemed. Five months ago it was commonest observation that the Democrats had played great politics during the Congress session; that they had employed their control of the House

Famous Actress Ill



The death of Della Fox, the sprightly singer and comedienne, who won a warm place in the hearts of the city-going public more than twenty years ago, is expected. She is in a sanatorium in New York City, suffering from appendicitis and peritonitis.

TALK UNCOMMON BOLD WHEN BRYAN IS AWAY

Courage Oozes When He Starts to Washington, and Now Every Man Jack Swears He Has Been Loyal to Nebraskaan.

Washington, January 7.—To-day's Washington Times prints the following:

A few hours ahead of the schedule that had been planned for him, William Jennings Bryan left Raleigh, N. C., on a night train last night, and was due in Washington this afternoon. The fact that he would be here was known in Washington this afternoon.

Putting two and two together, the Democrats assembled for the meeting of their national committee to-morrow assumed that Mr. Bryan was hastening his arrival in order to have time to prepare for a big fight in the committee in favor of the widest recognition of the presidential preference primary.

This belief was strengthened by receipt of advice that in his Raleigh speech last night Bryan was vigorous and uncompromising in his insistence that primaries are the only means by which the rank and file may express preference for candidates.

Faces Complications.

Mr. Bryan jangles in Washington to face a complication that no one except himself can straighten out. The Wilson people are demanding primaries, and the Bryan people are demanding primaries, but the anti-Wilson, anti-Bryan people are organizing to make it just as difficult as possible for Bryan and Wilson to work together. "Divide and Conquer" is the motto they have adopted.

Talk about the candidates and the bosses! There is only one big, dominating individuality in sight, and that is Bryan. Of course, it isn't true that all the other speakers who were to have appeared at the Jackson banquet to-morrow night have been scared into incontinent pneumonia, laryngeal paralysis, or loss of voice. Most of them will be on hand, despite reports to the contrary; even to Governor Folk, whose failure to receive an invitation in the first emission of invitations caused a lot of grief and renewed complications in Missouri.

But as to Bryan, the situation reminds one of that which prevailed almost exactly four years ago now. The Democratic leaders in Congress had convened for weeks, and finally decided on a plan. They would have a big dinner for Bryan, and when they got him squarely up against the mahogany they would tell him, kindly but firmly, that while they entertained the kindest sentiments for him, they could never, never be more than sisters to him. Really, he must not assume to ask another nomination. He would have to sacrifice any ambitions of that sort to the party interest.

Well, we all remember that "double-barreled dinner of discontent," as Bryan called it. Bryan came to town, and the dinner was divided into a two-session affair. The thing was "going to be put squarely up to Bryan," yes, indeed. The real conservatives of the party would just naturally serve the "never again" notice on him.

Courage Flies.

They talked uncommon bold while Bryan was 2,000 miles away. Courage oozed after it was reported that Bryan had started for Washington; when he was three days away, it was impossible to get anybody to discuss the ultimatum dinner; at two more other difficulties making it inadvisable for him to go out at night. The day before he got to town, you couldn't find a man Jack of them all who wasn't telling how persistently loyal to Bryan he had always been; and when the double-ended dinner actually came off, it was a love feast instead of a palace revolution!

Nobody ever mentioned the unpleasant subject supposed to have been in inspiration for the event; Bryan did all the talking he wanted to do, everybody was delighted to see him; not an ultimatum was produced from a single hip pocket, and at the end it was quietly conceded that the party just naturally couldn't shake off the Bryan yoke, because there wasn't a man in it with nerve enough to mention the matter in Bryan's presence.

This year it isn't so very different. Bryan is the one to whom all eyes turn. Will he be for or against this candidate or that? Does he want this or that in the platform? How hard will

he fight for primaries? Everything is referred to Bryan; everything seems to depend more on his attitude than on anything else.

EVANS FOR ARMY RESERVE.

Washington, January 7.—There were 1,672 less men in the organized militia last year than in the year before, the total for 1911 being 617,000 officers and 198,816 men, says the annual report of Brigadier-General R. K. Evans, chief of the Division of Military Affairs.

General Evans wants Federal pay for adjutant-generals of the States, special financial aid by the government for the field artillery and cavalry of the militia, more sergeants in the regular army who may be detailed to duty as instructors, to the militia, the supply by the government of a limited number of horses and forage for the militia cavalry, and Federal pay for militia service.

Called into active service, the militia would contain only about 42 per cent of the war strength to which it would be raised, showing, in General Evans's opinion, the need for a reserve. The United States, of all the great powers of the world, is the only one which provides no reserves, and General Evans suggests a scheme for the creation of one, based on an enlistment period of seven years, not less than two nor more than three, of which shall be served with the colors.

WANTS TO SHUT OUT WOMEN.

North Plainfield Councilman Thinks Borough Should Exclude Them.

Plainfield, N. J., January 7.—If the first regular meeting of the North Plainfield Common Council in 1912, held Friday night, is to be a criterion, the citizens feel sure that the year will see some warm sessions. William J. Butfield, a New York tea importer, signaled his advent as a Councilman by introducing a resolution designed to prevent women from living in the borough.

In support of his measure, he pointed out that it costs \$26 a year to send a child to school, and the children of mechanics' families usually average three. The matter was receiving a warm airing when Councilman M. Van Arman asked Mr. Butfield what remedy he would suggest. He said he had none. Further discussion resulted in the resolution being withdrawn for modification and revision.

MIDSHIPMEN PUNISHED.

Because of Connection With Club Recently Raided by Authorities.

Annapolis, Md., January 7.—Because of their connection with a club in Annapolis, where midshipmen frequently gathered, punishment has been administered to five midshipmen by the Naval Academy authorities upon the recommendation of a board that investigated the matter. Each has received fifty demerits, and will be restricted to the academy grounds for four months. The names of the young men are withheld, but it is known that one is a member of the first class and the other four are second classmen.

The club room was raided a few days ago jointly by the naval and civil police, and was found to be well stocked with intoxicating liquors.

Jefferson Hotel Arrivals.

A. A. Lew, Cincinnati; Felix B. Lippman, New York; Geo. T. Hutton, Baltimore; E. M. Blake, Trenton, N. J.; E. H. Niles, Rock Castle, Va.; Caesar and wife, Roanoke, Va.; E. M. Pepper, New York; Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Novak, New Prague, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Garland, Brooklyn; J. C. Rubin, New York; H. T. Thomas, Baltimore; J. H. D. Rowan, Trenton; H. K. Pratt, North Carolina; C. L. Welch, Kokomo, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Porter, New York; Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bourke, Rosmond, Mont.; B. L. Rickard, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Turner, Cleveland, O.; Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Abbott, Manchester; D. O. L. N. New York; Mrs. H. M. Davis, New York; Miss Florence Davis, New York; J. C. Nelson, Norfolk, Va.

John Herbert Sims, of 1109 West Main Street, died last night at 11:15 o'clock. He was thirty-six years old. He leaves two brothers and three sisters—Dr. G. W. Sims, of this city; F. W. Sims, of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Harris and Miss Ella Sims, of this city; Mrs. J. Hubbard, of Buckhannon, Ga. The funeral will be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow (Tuesday) at St. Louis, where interment will be made.

Funeral of Mrs. Wade.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Christiansburg, Va., January 7.—The funeral services of Mrs. Jane Wade were held at the residence of Rev. E. B. Loe, at 10 o'clock to-day. Mrs. Wade was one of the most interesting characters of the town. Her son told of long years of her life, who knew her. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church, and was a daughter of Elizabeth Keady. She was white and Dr. Joseph Speers, Esq. She was survived by two sisters, Mrs. Millie Egan and Miss Egan, one of whom is a nurse. She was also survived by her son, Mr. J. H. Wade, who is a member of the town. She was a member of the town. She was a member of the town. She was a member of the town.

Funeral of Mrs. Wade.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Norfolk, Va., January 7.—Captain Charles W. Wade, well known over the South as a gallant Confederate soldier, died at his home in Norfolk to-day. He was seventy-three years old. He was a member of the town. He was a member of the town. He was a member of the town.

Funeral of Mrs. Wade.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Alexandria, Va., January 7.—German Haynes, about thirty years old, died last night at his home, 116 North St. St. Asaph Street. His wife survives him.

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We Sold Thousands of Dollars Worth of Victors and Victrolas During the Holidays

But our stock has been replenished, and you are invited to call and select.

VICTROLAS \$15 to \$200.

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live issues has ignored instead of advocating a presidential candidacy. He made a positive statement that there had been no breach of the friendly relations between Colonel Harvey and himself, and that he knew of nothing which could have given rise to such a report.

When informed by a correspondent that it had been definitely reported that at a recent meeting he had said in the presence of Colonel Harvey that the advocacy of Harper's Weekly at this time was damaging to his presidential aspirations, the Governor emphatically denied the truth of the report.

"When I said that there had been no breach between Colonel Harvey and myself, I meant it literally," he added. "There was no foundation whatever for the story, and I never made any such remark as that which you say has been attributed to me."

The Governor also said that he failed to recall the occasion which could have given rise to such an impression.

Candidates Initiated.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Alexandria, Va., January 7.—Twenty-five candidates were initiated to-night by Alexander Division, No. 1. Ancient Order of Hibernians. The degree work was given by a degree team of the Washington division of that organization.

OBITUARY

George C. McGilvray.

George C. McGilvray, a well-known insurance adjuster, died at his home in Staunton early last night, leaving acute form on Saturday. He was a member of the town. He was a member of the town. He was a member of the town.

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